# Igor **Ferst**

## Data + Software

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## Summary

Product-minded data and software engineer with 10+ years of experience architecting and scaling data platforms in fast-paced, high-ambiguity, high-complexity environments. Deep experience with early-stage teams and products, most notably as the co-founder and CTO of a startup building an analytics platform for vehicle telematics data (Mobikit, acquired by Bridgestone).

I've built analytics infrastructure from scratch, led cross-functional teams, and translated messy and large-scale real-world data into business-critical insights. I thrive at the intersection of hands-on engineering, data architecture, and user-driven product strategy.

## Work Experience

### Epidemic Sound                                                    *Stockholm, Sweden*

**SR. DATA ENGINEER**                                                 *Jan. 2025 - present*

First data engineer on an early-stage team building a new product in a data-heavy domain.

- Designed and implemented a data warehouse (DWH) from the ground up to support internal analytics and rapid development of data-driven product features.
- Own the DWH roadmap, continuously adapting to rapidly changing stakeholder requirements and market conditions.
- Design and implement self-serve data interfaces to large-scale, complex data for both internal and external customers.
- Responsible for vendor negotiation and FinOps.

**DATA SCIENCE TEAM LEAD**                                           *June 2024 - Jan. 2025*

Founding lead for a new team responsible for cultivating a data product culture within the data science domain.

- Articulated team vision after detailed discovery with data scientists, defined a roadmap, and got buy-in from leadership.
- Designed and implemented a technical toolkit for data product development that enabled traceability of ownership and automated error monitoring.
- Defined best practices around data product development, LLMs, and MLOps. Provided hands-on training to data scientists.
- Enhanced company's primary customer lifetime value model to support finer-grained cohorting while maintaining accuracy.
- Prototyped two LLM-based analytics tools that were selected for development.

**SR. ANALYTICS ENGINEER**                                           *Sept. 2023 - June 2024*

Epidemic's analytics engineering team owns our data warehouse and supports Epidemic's analysts and data scientists with tooling, data products, and expertise.

- Designed and implemented a new DWH code deployment process that significantly increased deployment frequency and reduced downtime.
- Implemented DWH cost monitoring which was critical during renegotiation with GCP; stakeholder called it "a huge win".
- Implemented integration with new CRM tool; stakeholder said "never before in my career has an integration actually been delivered on time with no hiccups".

### Bridgestone Mobility Solutions                                    *Stockholm, Sweden*

**DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING**                                          *Feb. 2021 - Aug. 2023*

My startup Mobikit (see below) was acquired and its product incorporated into Bridgestone's software portfolio as a data-driven fleet risk management product for insurance carriers called SafetyIQ. Post-acquisition, I integrated Mobikit with Bridgestone's engineering and sales orgs, and continued to lead product development for SafetyIQ.

### Mobikit                                                          *Columbus (OH), USA*

**CO-FOUNDER/CTO**                                                   *Jan. 2019 - Feb. 2021*

Technical co-founder of a startup building a data analytics platform for large-scale vehicle telematics data. I oversaw data engineering, product development, and customer implementation.

- Architected and led development of data pipeline to ingest, harmonize, and enrich telematics data from heterogenous sources.
- Oversaw design and development of platform's analytics features such as risk analytics, outlier detection, accident reconstruction, and more.
- Contributed code across the entire stack, from data pipeline to application backend to UI.
- Grew and managed globally distributed team of developers and data scientists, from interns to seniors (8 people at its highest).
- Raised funding, guided company to product-market fit, and exited successfully.

### Root Insurance

*Columbus (OH), USA*

SR. SOFTWARE ENGINEER

*Sept. 2018 - Jan. 2019*

Worked at a growth-stage insuretech unicorn on multiple data-intensive projects.

- Prototyped a random forest model to enhance insurance rate accuracy.
- Implemented support for new rating methodologies and executed historical backtests for rating changes.
- Python SME for engineering and actuarial teams.

### Enlace Health

*Columbus (OH), USA*

LEAD SOFTWARE ENGINEER

*Sept. 2014 - Feb. 2018*

Enlace is a healthtech company building large-scale data analytics tools to support innovative models of healthcare delivery. I joined as an early employee working on the analytics platform, and was then asked to lead a team building a new product.

- Led a cross-functional team building a care management and revenue cycle management product for surgical centers.
- Owned product design and technical architecture, maintained product roadmap, implemented features.
- Introduced and trained engineering team on new technologies (Docker, Angular), development processes (TDD, code reviews), and agile methodology (user stories, estimation).

### InSample

*San Francisco (CA), USA*

SOFTWARE ENGINEER

*Mar. 2014 - Sept. 2014*

First employee at a healthcare analytics startup building a cloud-based tool for statistical de-biasing of clinical experiments. Together with the CTO, I interviewed prospective customers, and designed and built the product prototype.

### Google

*Mountain View (CA), USA*

SOFTWARE ENGINEER

*Feb. 2013 - Mar. 2014*

I was part of the conversion tracking team building tools that Google's customers use to understand the effectiveness of their ad spend. I implemented a novel conversion tracking visualization for the AdWords suite of analytics tools and developed enhancements to the Google Analytics Markov-chain-based attribution model.

### Palantir Technologies

*Palo Alto (CA), USA*

FORWARD DEPLOYED ENGINEER

*Jan. 2011 - Jan. 2013*

I worked on Palantir Metropolis, a data integration and quantitative research platform for capital markets. I was a developer and product owner for the platform's visualization and reporting features, and was embedded with the platform's largest customer.

## Skills

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|---|---|
| **General** | Data engineering, data modeling, software engineering, analytics and data science, technical leadership |
| **Languages** | Python, SQL, Javascript |
| **Data Tools** | dbt, BigQuery, PostgreSQL, Hex, Looker, LLMs, pandas |
| **Infrastructure** | GCP, Docker, Airflow, Terraform, Github |

## Education

### Cornell University

*Ithaca (NY), USA*

M.S. IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

- PhD candidate in Applied Mathematics supported by a US National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship.
- Published original research in algorithms and optimization: `https://tinyurl.com/ycheu4us`

### University of Waterloo

*Waterloo (Ontario), Canada*

M.MATH. IN COMBINATORICS & OPTIMIZATION

### University of Chicago

*Chicago (IL), USA*

B.S. IN MATHEMATICS WITH HONORS

- Published original research in mathematics as an undergraduate, earning an Erdős number of 2.